

Out of Many One People

(The Jewish Contribution to Jamaica's Culture and Greatness)

Submitted by Milton Hart

In the 19th century, Jews were prominent in the political, social, and cultural life of the country (Jamaica). In 1849, for example, 8 of the 47 members of the House of Assembly were Jews, and the House adjourned for Yom Kippur (Jewish holiday). Jewish people played a significant role in development of the island's natural resources and international trade. In 1881 the Jewish population reached 2,535 out of 13,800 white citizens. In the 20th century, Jews from Syria and Germany joined the community. However, the Jewish population diminished due to economic decline, emigration, and intermarriage. ([Http://www.jewishgen.org/cemetery/atlc-caribbean/jamaica.html](http://www.jewishgen.org/cemetery/atlc-caribbean/jamaica.html))

"According to biblical and other historical accounts, the Jews have suffered much and, on several occasions, have been driven from several places that they regard as home.

Prior to 1800 CE, persecution was directed at followers of Judaism because of their religious beliefs; it was referred to as anti-Judaism. Their persecution is now termed anti-semitism.

The landing of Christopher Columbus in the Caribbean (1492), in what he termed as "the new world", coincided with the time

when Jews were expelled from Spain and were forced to re-settle in various parts of the world.

Settlement in the "new world" offered an opportunity for many Jews to settle in a new land where they hoped to escape the persecution they had been subjected to in Europe. Some Jews wandered to Jamaica; and this is where I want to start this discussion.

The Jamaican Canadian Association recently embarked on a series titled "Out of Many One People" as a means of celebrating the various races and peoples who made significant contributions to Jamaica's culture and greatness. The Jews, who have been quite instrumental in Jamaica's development and still play an important part in the maintenance of its culture and position in social, political and economic matters, will be the focus of this article.

It was the British, the great colonizing force of that era, who attracted Jews to their colony in Jamaica. Life under British rule in Jamaica was not as onerous as it was in Europe and the Jews quickly excelled in many facets of the colony.

By 1700, although recognized as second-class citizens as a result of their religion, the Jews, generally prosperous merchants, are noted as having borne the weight of the majority of the island's taxes. It was not until the 1740s after the hearing of numerous petitions, that King George II lifted undue taxation on the community. Less than a century later, Jamaican Jews were given the right to vote and they quickly began to acquire local political power. By 1849 eight of the 47 members were Jewish and that year the Assembly decided not to meet on Yom Kippur.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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*Letters and submissions welcome. The
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LETTERS to the EDITOR

**PRESERVING THE
 JAMAICAN CANADIAN
 ASSOCIATION'S
 HISTORY AT THE
 NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF
 CANADA.**

Dear Members, former members and friends of the JCA. The National Archive of Canada would like to collect and preserve the historical records of the Jamaican Canadian Association at no cost to the Association. The Board of Directors of the JCA has approved this request from the National Archive.

Why is the National Archive interested in preserving the JCA'S History? The JCA is an integral part of the Canadian Mosaic, and for over forty years have made significant contributions to the multicultural fabric of this country. This Association has been a vanguard in the struggle for human rights, equity in education and the workplace. The JCA has been a strong advocate for fairness in Canadian Immigration practices as it pertains to Caribbean peoples and all people of African

descent. These are only a sample of the role the JCA has played since its inception in 1962.

Why, one might ask, that should we preserve our record? A people without a history tend to be ignored by the majority in society as irrelevant. Our contribution to society will go unrecognized. Our children will have no foundation on which to build. By collecting and preserving our history we will legitimize our existence and place as bone fide Canadians.

There is a wealth of archival materials about the Jamaican Canadian Association in our community. These materials are in private hands. We are thankful to these private collectors for having the foresight to collect and preserve these materials. A large percentage of the JCA'S materials were destroyed when the Association's first Centre on Dawes Road was gutted by fire of unknown origin.

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**LOYALTY AND ONENESS OF
 PURPOSE: JCA'S 22ND ANNUAL
 WALKATHON**

On behalf of the JCA'S Fundraising Committee, I would like to thank and also congratulate those 45 brave souls who ignored the rain and completed the 5km and 10km walk.

Not only did they walk, but also their initial intake at the registration table was over \$6 000.00. For those people who did not challenge the elements, but have pledges, we are asking you to hand those pledges in as soon as possible.

It would be greatly appreciated

though perhaps you had not walked, or got sponsors, that you make a donation especially to congratulate those who braved the rain for this worthwhile cause.

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank all the sponsors for their generous gifts towards the walkathon.

The grit and the determination of those who actively participated in the 22nd Annual Walkathon has made this one of the most successful, (though not financially) of our walkathons.

Fay Conville



**President's
 REPORT**

Valarie Steele

Dear Members and Supporters:

Another financial year has past and we are approaching our Annual General Meeting. It gives me great pleasure to convey, on behalf of the Board of Directors and our wider membership, a warm and sincere thanks to all who have supported our many events over the past year. We wish you and your family a happy, fun-filled and safe summer holiday.

At 42 years and marching forward, we continue to advocate on behalf of our community, ensuring that we take our rightful place in this society and that our children and grand children will follow in our footsteps in becoming all that they can be.

Our Community Centre continues to host events that are reaching out far beyond our immediate geographic service area and these events are talked about far and wide. We hosted our Prime Minister from Jamaica, The Most Honourable P.J. Patterson;

welcomed our new High Commissioner to Canada and the reception to launch Air Jamaica flight for its return to Canada in April of 2004.

Recently we hosted a "Thank You Reception" for Mr. John Honderich, former Publisher of The Toronto Star. We had to say "Thank You" in person to him because he certainly went out on a limb for our community several times over the last 20 years and capped it with the series on Racial Profiling. It was a fitting tribute to a man who is an excellent leader that does things because "it is the right thing to do." Thank you again John, we will always remember. These events drew lots of people from the wider community and it was fitting and symbolic to have these events at our own place. We will continue to do that in the future.

As you are aware, many new things have happened in Ontario/Toronto recently. We have seen the election of

a new government at Queens Park, its different faces are reflective of the real Ontario. A new Mayor along with some new faces at City Hall is also in place. These are all positive changes that will be beneficial to us in many ways. We have been meeting with some of the key ministries that oversee areas that are critical to our existence in this province. We are pleased with the success of these meetings and will continue to lobby on your behalf. This is what the JCA has done for 42 years and must continue to do on behalf of our community.

We are paying close attention to what is happening at the Police Services Board. It is very important that we have a Board that is accountable to us and works in a manner that makes the police, accountable. To have a Police Services Board that is merely a "rubber stamp" for whatever the police wants can be classified as the making of a police state. The province made a mistake in their last appointment of the retired judge. Once again we have a member that is from the same old place and continue to do the same old thing.

The Police Services Board is not reflective of the community that it serves and the Province of Ontario should have been aware of that before they made this last appointment.

We have met with the Chair of the Police Services Board and aired our concerns in a forthright manner. We believe that the thinking of the police, that if you are not with them you are against them, is a mentality that has caused a lot of current and former members of the Police



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EDUCATION and CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Submitted by:

Sylvanus Thompson

Saturday Morning Tutorial Program

The Education Committee continues to focus on the Saturday Morning Tutorial Program and to identify areas requiring improvements to enhance its effectiveness. The concerns include large class size, which was exacerbated by the current limited number of volunteers, and limited streamlining of activities on a weekly basis. Even with the best intentions and efforts, co-ordinating the activities on a voluntary basis is both difficult and inefficient, due to time constraints. In an effort to better streamline the program to ensure effectiveness, and efficiency and maintain volunteer and student interest, the Education Committee is in the process of acquiring a Co-ordinator for the program. The aim is to have someone who will be able to dedicate more time to co-ordinate a program that will meet the needs of the JCA members the wider community.

During the month of February, the Saturday Morning tutorial program planned and implemented several weekly activities to celebrate Black History Month. These included talks from invited guest speakers and the viewing of relevant video programs.

JCA 2004 Scholarship and Awards Program

The 2004 Scholarship Awards will take place on November 20, at the JCA. Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to worthy students from the Caribbean/African community, who are pursuing post secondary studies in Ontario Universities/Colleges. The following Scholarships will be awarded to recipients that best meet the selection criteria:

1. Dr. Ezra Nesbeth Scholarship
2. Mary Anne Chambers Scholarship
3. I Have a Dream Scholarship
4. Youth Affairs Committee Rising Star Scholarship
5. Erma Collins Scholarship
6. Marcus Mosiah Garvey Scholarship

Complete selection and eligibility guidelines along with the application form are available on the JCA website (www.jcassoc.com), at the JCA Office and at various universities and colleges.

Marcus Garvey Library

The Committee is currently working towards having the Library opened two days during the week and on Saturday mornings. A volunteer librarian has been identified to ensure that the facility is organized and to provide supervision and assistance during opening hours.

President's REPORT

Continued

Services Board to shy away from doing what is right. The police is not above the law or should not be held accountable. They must operate within the laws and must be made accountable to us because after all, we are the ones that pay their salary. Anything less, accepted by the Board, is a result of being intimidated by a force that they ought to be overseeing. That ladies and gentlemen is totally unacceptable. I hope that the Province will expand the Board to be reflective of the people of Toronto. If the Province does not move towards that end, then they intend to do business as usual. You can form your own opinion as to what that would mean for our community.

A bit of JCA History: The Jamaican Canadian Association ("JCA") was founded in the fall of 1962 at a time when the first wave of immigrants from the Caribbean was arriving in Canada. Many issues confronted the new immigrants such as employment, housing and other social amenities. Founded by a group of Jamaican expatriates, its main focus was to help immigrants from the Caribbean, mainly Jamaicans, to settle in Canada.

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YOUTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

YAC has been actively pursuing one of its ongoing objectives ... recruiting youth to join the JCA. Through its annual events, such as the Young Professional Gala and Career Expo and continuous networking, YAC members have been able to increase its exposure and encourage youth to become members of the JCA. YAC would like to formally welcome its new members who have already shown great enthusiasm in contributing their time and skills.

In the past few months, members have been out and about lending support to and participating in various community events. These include: Jumping the Broom

fundraiser, JCA walk-a-thon, JCA Mother's Day Brunch, and presenting at the outgoing Toronto Star publisher John Honderich's reception.

Currently, the committee is working on its 3rd Annual Car Wash/BBQ fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, July 17th. All are welcome to lend a hand that day and join in on the fun. Also, the preliminary planning for the 3rd Annual Young Professional Gala in October is underway, promising to be even more illustrious than last year's success.

As part of the new *Speaker Series* introduced by YAC Chair David Griffiths, Labour and Race Relations pioneer Bromley Armstrong was

African-Canadian Bridal Show, Sankofa. In.Cipher

thrilled with the invitation and candidly shared his stories and experiences of his 57 years in Canada. The group was inspired by the astounding contributions he has made in spearheading and founding numerous organizations, causes and movements.

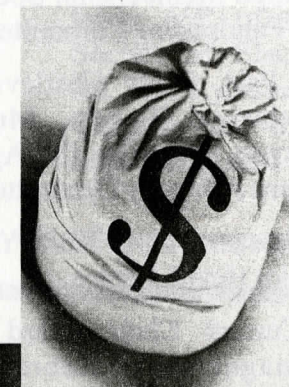
It's evident that the Order of Canada recipient has left an indelible mark in his involvement with the JCA, Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA) and the Harry Jerome Awards to name a few. Stay tuned for more on this new venture from the Committee. The aim of the series is to invite community leaders and visionaries to share their insight and motivate young minds.

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REPORT OF JCA'S 2004 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Submitted by the 2004 Nominating Committee:
Erma Collins, Marjorie Cameron, Byron Carter Lloyd Porter, Edna Smith-Bowes

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the positions that are open this year:

President, 2-year Term: Barbara Thomas

Barbara is a retired Health Care Administration Coordinator, Educator/Preceptor and Consultant.

Attributes:

- Hard working, highly motivated individual.
- Strong collaborative leadership style and communication skills.
- Refined mentoring and coaching skills gained from being an educator in community college, teaching institution, and distant education programs.
- Very conscious of time management.

Some Past Volunteer Activities

- Past JCA Board member. Chaired Membership, Social, and Fundraising Committees.
- Past Chair Castlview Wychwood Towers, Metro Toronto Home for the Aged (Home Advisory Committee).
- Past member of North York Senior Health Centre.
- Current Chair Board of Management Celebration Presbyterian Church.
- Chair JCA's 40th Anniversary Celebration.
- Recipient of JCA's 25 Years' Membership Award and Ministry of Citizenship and Culture 25 Years' Volunteer Award.

Objectives

- To maintain and build on the integrity and credibility of the JCA, taking it to a new level.
- To explore new avenues for rigorous fundraising, in order to pay down the mortgage.
- To explore ways of getting the Youth Committee and youths in general fully integrated into the association.
- To explore the feasibility of expansion of the current building, once our finances are at a comfortable level.

Executive Secretary, 2-year Term: Candace Earle

Candace's education background includes a Diploma in Accounting from Seneca College; Certificate in Advance Tax Preparation from H & R Block; and Certificate in Canadian Securities from Canadian Securities Institute. She is currently working towards her CGA designation.

Attributes

- Highly organized and dedicated; team player; positive attitude; enthusiastic; ability to work under pressure; adapts well to situational and environmental changes.
- Outstanding ability to communicate with people from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds.

Technical Skills

- Computer literacy in WordPerfect, PowerPoint, Windows XP-Professional Edition, QuickBooks, Lotus 1-2-3, Microsoft Excel, ACCPAC Plus, and Simply

Accounting.

Experience

Candace has held responsible positions which have allowed her to develop many transferable skills such as leadership, report writing, coordinating, organizing.

- Area Manager, H & R Block.
- Tax Training School Coordinator, H & R Block.
- Assistant Area Manager, Financial Stop.
- Store Manager, Financial Stop.

Chair Education Committee, 2-year Term: Sylvanus Thompson, MSc., BSc.

Sylvanus is a role model in educational pursuits. In addition to his Masters Degree in Food Science from the University of Guelph, he has gained the following: Royal Society of Health Diploma, West Indies School of Public Health; Diploma in Veterinary Public Health and Animal Health, Guyana; Certificate in Red Meat, Poultry and Processed Food Inspection, Texas, USA; Certified HACCP Trainer, National Educational Foundation, USA; BSc Environmental Health, Ryerson University; Certificate in Quality Assurance Monitoring, National Quality Institute, Toronto; Certificate in Emergency Response, Emergency Medical Service, Toronto.

Work Experience

His work experience has allowed him to develop skills in leadership and education.

- Currently Healthy Environments Manager, Toronto Public Health.
- Public Health Inspector at various levels, including Chief PHI, Ministry of Health, Jamaica.
- Associate Tutor, Cornwall School of Nursing.

• Part Time Lecturer, West Indies School of Public Health.

Other Relevant Experiences

Community involvement, mostly in leadership roles, has also been a constant in this candidate's life:

- Former President Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors.
- President Rosemount Gardens Citizens' Association, Montego Bay, Jamaica.
- 1st V.P. and Public Relations Officer, St. James Cricket As., Jamaica.
- Public Relations Officer, Cornwall Regional Hospital Staff Club.
- Manager St. James Cricket Team and Cornwall Regional Hospital Cricket Team.
- Member Education Committee & Chair Scholarship Selection Committee, JCA.

Major Awards and Achievement

The following awards speak to the quality of Sylvanus's work:

- Ontario Food Protection Association, Most Outstanding Contribution to Food Safety.
- Dean's Honours List 1995 & 1996, Ryerson University.
- Ontario Government Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement.
- JAPHI Most Outstanding PHI Award (twice); runner-up twice.
- JAPHI President's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Health.

Chair Membership Services Committee, 1-year Term: Gary Thompson

Gary is a graduate in Electrical Engineering from the University of Technology in Jamaica. In Canada, he studied Electrical Engineering at Ryerson University, as well as Marketing and Organizational Behaviour at Schulich Business School at York. He is married to Catherine and they have two daughters: Malaika and Farisa. Having been born into a family steeped in social consciousness, and having a background in business and organizations, the opportunity to be Membership Chair is most relevant, he believes.

Skills

- Accomplished management professional with extensive experience in facilitating and mentoring individuals and teams towards achieving their goals and achieving excellence.
- Recognized as strategic thinker, highly skilled in co-operative team building, strategic planning, relationship building, and team management.
- Possesses a working knowledge of change management and organizational analysis.

Community Involvement

Throughout his lifetime, Gary has been involved in various social and cultural organizations:

- Church Youth Groups.

- Prison Ministries.
- African & Caribbean student groups at Ryerson.
- Student mentoring.
- Heritage Singers.
- Various regional and municipal committees and boards, attempting to provide a multicultural perspective.

Chair Youth Affairs Committee, 2-year Term: LaToya McPherson

Born in Toronto to Jamaican parents, LaToya holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Information Technology; she is currently employed at the BMO Bank of Montreal as a Business Analyst for Management Information.

Attributes

- Energetic.
- Epitomizes purpose and passion.
- A true leader with a special interest in helping our children to make the right educational and social choices and with the aspiration to be a future International Educator.

Community Involvement

- During undergraduate years, V.P. of the National Society of Black Engineers for the Ryerson University Chapter. Led the group in fundraising activities, campus

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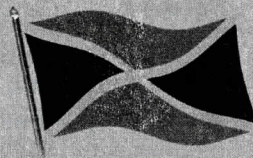
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JAMAICA LAND WE LOVE

I was a student teacher in 1962. I clearly remembered that day when I had volunteered to be one of many student teachers responsible for the many students representing their parishes in the temporary bleachers on King Street in Kingston. What an exhilarating feeling it was as we proudly ushered in our Independence from Britain?

The dreams of what an Independent Jamaica was going to be were many. On the whole these dreams were very positive ones. We had our own national anthem, our own National Pledge, (a ten shilling dollar, the largest one around), but most of all, we had a motto to inspire us and one whose ideal was worth striving for. It evokes a positive kind of humanity: *Out of Many, One People.*

I have physically left this "Pride of the blue Caribbean Sea" for over thirty years, but emotionally I have never left. I have just returned from my Island "Paradise" having spent five glorious weeks there.

The physical Jamaica I left for over thirty years is still there. The lush vegetation seems the same as when Columbus landed on its shores. Much has changed since Independence. One has to be impressed with the nearly all island electrification program, improvements in road building, and proper housing projects. One is also impressed with its modern technological development. Yes, there are lots of things to be proud of including being awakened by a symphony of pleasant bird songs in the early morn.

The Plague within the Society:

It is worse than SARS, locus, the

bubonic plague, and hurricane and probably AIDS. It is the **gunmen**. One wonders "who is in charge of the store?" Has the gun men declared war on the over ninety percent of the law abiding citizens of Jamaica?

Is there a home left in this beautiful Island that is not converted into a family prison with windows, doors, verandas and hallways not grilled and securely fastened with dead-bolt locks? The vagabonds are free to roam the streets at will, while the law-abiding citizens because of fear, repair to their grilled cells at night.

The Three Levels of Government:

It is obvious that there is a **tri-partied** system of government in Jamaica although the Constitution calls for only two, a National and a Local. The third level can be described as the **Level of Dons**. This level, though unelected, exerts a lot of power. This level is feared by most citizens and unfortunately, by the other two levels of government and those who are paid to serve and protect the citizens.

Is it fear why so much notoriety is given to the Dons? During the *melee* in Spanish Town a few weeks ago where many people were killed, a Police Officer declared that he was not going to send any of his men behind any "zinc fence." Again I ask, "who is in charge of the store?"

At a press conference called by the Jamaica Gleaner to discuss the "turf war" in Spanish Town, a **Principal** of a local school, in a deplorable bit of confession, declared that when he has problems dealing with theft etc., he does not go to the police, he goes to the Dons to solve his problem.

It is reported that politicians from both political parties read eulogies at the funerals of fallen Dons. The optics is wrong. Are these people tacitly, by their actions legitimizing this third un-elected level of government?

It is reported that business people, taxi drivers and a host of other groups have to pay "protection money" to the Dons. Is this not **unbridled extortion**?

In its editorial of February 8, 2004 entitled *Liberating Spanish Town*, the Gleaner stated that *The Government must act forthrightly to liberate the people of Spanish Town, tight-lipped and fearful though they be. Government must be proactive not merely react to cries for peace and justice.* The editorial advice needs to be expanded to include liberating the entire Island. Where the "mob" rules, there can be no peace. The law-abiding citizens of our beloved country need to be liberated from this third level of government. This third level of government is waging an unjust *civil* war against their fellow Jamaicans.

**Developing A Team Strategy:
Eliminating the third level of government in Jamaica is not an option. It is a must for the development of an orderly society.**

Whose responsibility it is to eliminate this unsavory mob rule? The entire society is responsible. The National Government must provide the leadership through legislation and by making the tough decisions that are necessary to rid the nation of this scourge. This can only be achieved by accepting that a serious problem exists in the society.

The socializing agencies in the

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JCA WOMEN'S SPACE

Submitted by:
JCA Women's Committee

The Women's committee of the Jamaican Canadian Association continues to meet its mandate and objectives in addressing issues impacting on women's lives.

The committee continues to submit articles on women's issues in the "Women's Space" of the JCA's In Focus newsletter. The following articles were recently submitted:

The Women's Committee celebrated International Women's Day on Sunday March 21, 2004. Our keynote speaker was the Honorable Dr. Jean Augustine, Minister of State (Multiculturalism). The minister focused her address on women's issues, the importance of commemorating International Women's Day. She also directed some of her remarks to the International Day for the elimination of Racial Discrimination that coincided with the day of our function.

We had in attendance, Mayor David Miller who brought greetings from the city of Toronto and the Honorable Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Colleges and Universities represented the provincial government.

Dr. Inez Elliston made a presentation on "Women as Volunteers" based on the survey of women volunteers from several women's groups including the Women's Committee and other JCA members.

The program also included the Committee's fifth annual

"Women Recognizing Women" awards. This year, ten JCA women received certificates of recognition for their significant contributions for the organization over the years. Presenters of the certificates were the Honorable Mary Anne Chambers, MPP and Ms. Vivian Betton, Consul General for Jamaica.

Women's Intercultural Network (WIN), a volunteers group of women of diverse cultures participated in our program and presented its annual International Women's Day Award. This award was presented to Shalom-Salam, founded by two York University students Hina Khan and Miriam Yosowich to create greater understanding between Jews, Muslims, Christians and other faith-communities about the Middle East situation. The Honorable Dr. Jean Augusting presented the award to the recipients.


This was another very successful event. The Women's committee would like to thank our speakers, presenters, entertainers, JCA Board, membership and all others who contributed to the success of this function.

Other Activities: The committee worked in partnership with the Women's Committee of the Coalition of Black Trade Unions (CBTU) on a project to provide suitable attire for women who are re-entering the workforce, specifically those women in shelters or from abusive situations.


We continue to: Host the annual Alzheimer Society coffee Break

Sponsorship of a female child from Zambia

Support Eva's Place and the Women for P.A.C.E. annual toy drive



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WEST INDIES CRICKET ON TRIAL

Let us suppose that an independent panel of jurors was established to deliver a verdict on the charge of "causing emotional damage to the psyche of the West Indian people and bringing the game of the cricket into disrepute".

Obviously, one of the essential facts that the plaintiff/complainant (the cricket-loving West Indians) must prove in order to convict the defendant (this underachieving group of cricketers) is the relation of cause and effect between the defendant's negligence and the damage or injury it has incurred. This is where we will begin this discussion; or trial.

The court would have to prove that the negligence of the players, selectors and coaches lead to the stated damages. It would also have to bear in mind mitigating circumstances.

Examine the evidence:

(1) Throughout West Indies' latest losing tour of South Africa, the squad had maintained a united front, and evidence of infighting was, for once, hard to spot. Some of the tensions of the tour eventually bubbled to the surface.

West Indies' captain Brian Lara performed an extraordinary about-turn just seconds before the toss, when it appears that he unilaterally reinstated the fast bowler Mervyn Dillon to the starting XI even though the chairman of selectors, Sir Viv Richards, had insisted on Dillon's omission.

Nobody, though, was prepared for the amazing scene that took place out in the middle at Supersport Park, as Lara delayed the toss by several minutes during a

prolonged inspection of the pitch. From the moment Lara started inspecting the pitch to the moment the toss took place, he looked deliberately towards the dressing-room - where a helpless Richards sat - on at least a dozen occasions. West Indian officials have made no statement about the late team change.

It is not surprising to me that Sir Viv Richards has resigned as West Indies' chairman of selectors after two years in the job. His commitment to commentate with the BBC was cited by the West Indies board as the main reason for his decision. Richards himself was unavailable for comment.

West Indians close to the players and the organization seem to be resigned to the fact that discipline is a problem in the team.

In 1992, Malcolm Marshall, on his retirement, asserted that "everything seems to be going down the drain. There is no respect, no manners."

(2) In 1995, Coach Rohan Kanhai, a former captain, reported to the board that certain players had no respect for him and that they used abusive and foul language in public to him. Within months, Kanhai was replaced but no action was taken against the players concerned.

(3) In 1995, Viv Richards, after the tour of England, suggested that "In allowing Lara to quit the England tour briefly to return home on

private business, the board set a precedent that bred more resentment and disruption than I've ever known in a West Indies tour party."

(4) 1999 - Tony Howard, Barbados team manager: "We pay lip service to values like commitment, dedication, love of the game and practice but then we impress on our players' minds that the ultimate objective is money. Then why are we surprised by the results we obtain?"

(5) West Indian cricketers were seen partying in the stands of Sabina Park after they were humiliated in defeat by England

(6) The once mighty team is now in the basement of world cricket

The evidence, though we could go on and on in supplying it, is perhaps proof that West Indies cricket is in disarray. The jury should return a "guilty" verdict as the inmates are clearly running the asylum; in fact, some of them believe that they own it.

West Indians have not had much to cheer about and the situation does not seem to be getting any better.

